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By Matthew Arco

The city of Roswell and the company it contracted to refute controversial flood insurance maps, both say they are optimistic about making headway in a dispute that's been lingering for years with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Hopes of progress came after Congressman Harry Teague, D-N.M., convened a conference call in October between local officials and FEMA representatives to discuss concerns from the city that the maps exaggerate the risk that flooding poses to the area, which in turn forces local homes and businesses to pay higher insurance premiums.

"We've had some constituents come in wondering why they had to pay this increased flood insurance so we made an inquiry," Teague said. "We organized a conference call ... and it went from there. Evidentially, FEMA agreed to take another look at it and respond back to us. We were asked to make that a new (letter of map revision) request, which is what we're putting together right now."

Diniz said rather than send the missing piece of information, his company is resubmitting everything to the federal agency since the beginning.

“Hopefully this is going to tie up the loose ends and get us where we want to be,” he said.

“We think it went really well,” said David Storey, city engineer for Roswell. “There were three or four things that we talked about.”